

Scoring NAIP Assessment Surveys on the Score_Sheet_Counties.xls

1. Survey questions requiring numerical answers (questions 1-10) were scored from 1-5 as defined by the survey.
2. Questions 1-8 had a question weight of 1X. This means a question with a score of 5 resulted in a total question score of $5 \times 1 = 5$.
3. Questions 9-10 had a question weight of 2X. This means a question with a score of 5 resulted in a total question score of $5 \times 2 = 10$. A higher weight was given to these questions; they were deemed overarching program questions, and were relatively more important to the overall rating.
4. Survey takers did not know the question weighting while taking the survey.
5. For questions 13 and 14, textual answers were considered but not scored or weighted on the score sheet.
6. Crop identification answers (questions 11-12) requiring text/fill in the blank responses were not weighted or factored into the final score, but were entered into the scoring sheet as text. If the survey taker did not identify a single crop type for crops of primary and secondary importance per the instructions and left the answer box blank, the crop type info was not entered into the score sheet. If the crop type box was completed with an "Other (Fill In The Blank)" reply, then "Other" was entered into the score sheet.
7. Answers marked "Unsure" were auto recorded with a -1 score. This score was not factored into the final score in the Score_Sheet_Counties.dbf, and was simply used to discern "Unsure" answers from other answers.
8. Answers marked "N/A" were auto recorded with a 0 score. This score was not factored into the final score in the Score_Sheet_Counties.dbf, and was simply used to discern "N/A" answers from other answers.
9. For the purposes of scoring surveys, survey responses of "Unsure" and "N/A" caused adjustments to be made to the SCORE column and the OUT_OF_POS column (representing the total possible points for a given survey). For each "Unsure" (-1) response in a given row, +1 was added to the SCORE field, and the OUT_OF_POS total was reduced by 5 if the "Unsure" answer occurred in questions 1-8 and by 10 for questions 9-10. For each "N/A" (0) response, the SCORE field remained untouched, and the OUT_OF_POS total was reduced by 5 if the "N/A" answer occurred in questions 1-8 and by 10 for questions 9-10. These adjustments were done to ensure that "Unsure" and "N/A" answers would not adversely affect the overall scoring averages. For example, three questions with 5 possible points each answered 4,5,N/A(0), would result in a 9/10 or .9 score, rather than a 9/15 or .6 score. As a second example, three questions with 5 possible points each answered 4,5,Unsure(-1), would result in 9/10 or .9 score, rather than 8/15 or .533 score.
10. Answers for questions 1-10 that were left completely blank were treated in the same manner as "N/A" answers on the score sheet.
11. Incorrectly taken surveys or surveys that did not identify the county/state FIPS were omitted and not scored.
12. A rating methodology for SCORE/OUT_OF_POS is as follows: .2 = Completely Unsatisfied, .201-.599 = Unsatisfied, .6 = Neither Satisfied or Unsatisfied, .601-.999 = Satisfied, and 1.0 = Completely Satisfied.